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Remarks/Arguments

In paragraph 1 of the Action, Figs. 7 and 8 were objected to.

In reply thereto, applicant has added a legend -Prior Art- to Figs. 7 and 8.

In paragraphs 2-3 of the Action, claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Asako et al.

In reply thereto, applicant has cancelled claim 1 and amended the remaining claims to define applicant's invention more clearly over the prior art of record.

As clearly defined in the amended claims 2-6 and 9, applicant's invention comprises a plurality of light emitting element (LEE) array chips each including a plurality of LEE's arranged with a deviation from adjacent LEE's in the second direction such that its light emitting area overlaps portions of light emitting areas of said adjacent LEE's in the second direction, thereby shifting spatial frequencies to high-frequency regions where they are not conspicuous, thus making the image disturbance less conspicuous.

With respect to the prior art, Asako et al. disclose an optical writing head 27 comprising LED array chips 31 and drive IC's 31a and 31b.

However, Asako et al. neither disclose nor suggest any LEE array chip including a plurality of LEE's each arranged

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with a deviation from adjacent LEE's in the second direction such that its light emitting area overlaps portions of light emitting areas of the adjacent LEE's in the second direction.

In fact, as shown in Fig. 20A of Asako et al., 56 LED array chips 31 are arranged with positional deviations and it is evident that all of the LED's in each LED array chip are arranged in a line without any deviation in the second direction. By contrast, according to the invention, each LEE (not LEE array chip) is arranged with a deviation from adjacent LEE's in the same chip so that its light emitting area is shifted from the light emitting areas of the adjacent LEE's in the second direction.

For these reasons, it is submitted that applicant's invention recited in claims 2-6 and 9 are patentable over Asako et al.

Secondly, as clearly defined in the amended claims 7-8, and 10, applicant's invention comprises a memory for storing information about a delayed time with respect to a reference light-emitting timing and a driver circuit for driving the LEE based on a strobe signal with a predetermined time period and the delayed time so that the LEE's with the same reference light-emitting timing are driven at such different time periods that portions of driving times overlap each other, thereby reducing the visible difference in the image density.

Asako et al. teach that the LED array chips 31 make LEDs emit light at the timings corresponding to the positional

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deviations so that images are formed without a positional deviation.

However, Asako et al. neither disclose nor suggest any driver circuit for driving the LEDs, which made to emit at the same reference light-emitting timing, with the different delayed times. The LEDs of Asako et al. are made to emit light with different reference timings.

For these reasons, it is submitted that applicant's invention recited in claims 7-8 and 10 are patentable over Asako et al.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon does not appear to be any more pertinent with respect to the amended claims.

A one-month time extension fee is enclosed.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that this application be reconsidered, claims 2-10 allowed, and the case passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,
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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 7 and 8. These sheets, which include Fig. 7 and 8, replace the original sheets including Figs. 7 and 8.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets